

Could not be supposed.——Well, we could not help thinking: So we intended, that if our own Representatives would help us, and we could get a Settlement of our own Officers, and if the Deficiency did not lay there, to proceed and lay the same before the Assembly, and have the Treasurers Accounts Examined. And if our Assembly-men refused to join with us, then to Petition for new Elections, &c.

Now, by the Time we got this Answer, we found by the Journals of the House, that the Publick Accounts were really unsettled; by a Motion from the Governor to them on that Head; and now we were yet more alarmed, for as we Understood the Motion, he hinted, though in a delicate soft Manner, to have that Authority vested in the Governor.

Well, the more that we discovered Things out of order, we were sensible the stronger we should be opposed; and we not only found by this Answer that the Governor inclined to the other Side, multiplying all our Faults to the highest Pitch he was capable of; and with as great an Extream Painting the other Side;——and without meeting together, which he strictly forbid, and conferring together, we could make no Hand either in [31] Carrying Elections, or Representing our Grievances. Our Hands were fast tied from any Relief but the Law, and in that Way had also excused himself from Protecting or Helping us, any farther than to Order the Attorney to set up a Proclamation.

Well, under this Difficulty we stood still, and soon saw the Proclamation had no Effect at all, for the Register, or his Clerk, raised in their Fees Four-pence or Eight-pence; upon which all Hopes of the Law vanished, and every Channel and Passage of Redress was stopped and shut up.——However, after some time, as we thought, the Governor would expect some Return to his Letter, and this we could not Effect without breaking his Orders, so we appointed a Meeting to agree upon an Answer; and at the Meeting received the following Letter from the Governor, *viz.*

¹⁷ GENTLEMEN,

“In strict Conformity to the Promise I made you in my Letter dated from the Council-Chamber, at *Brunswick*, I issued a Proclamation on my Arrival at *Hillsborough*, a Copy of which I herewith transmit to you.

¹⁷ *Colonial Records*, Vol. VII, p. 801.